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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 15340 191519Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T CAIRO 15340

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PEPR PGOV EG IS US
SUBJECT: FONMIN KAMEL'S VIEWS RE CONVEYING REVISED
EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL

REF: (A) CAIRO 15183, (B) CAIRO 15182

1. AFTER MY LONG TALK WITH FONMIN KAMEL AND AHMED MAHER TODAY ABOUT ISRAELI RESPONSES (SEPTEL), SUBJECT OF REVISED EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL AROSE. KAMEL INITIALLY INDICATED THAT, FOLLOWING ISRAELI RESPONSES, WE SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CONVEY TO THE ISRAELIS THE REVISED EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL AT ANY TIME WE SEE FIT. HE THEN HAD A SECOND THOUGHT ABOUT THE MATTER. NOTING HIS PROPOSAL THAT PERHAPS THE PROPOSED SCENARIO MIGHT BE REVERSED AND THAT SECRETARY VANCE MIGHT FIRST VISIT THE AREA, HE WONDERED OUT LOUD WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANY ADVANTAGE TO GOE TO HOLDING UP PRESENTATION OF COUNTERPROPOSAL.

2. I REMINDED HIM THAT ALL I HAD AGREED TO DO WAS TO SUBMIT HIS SUGGESTION ABOUT REVERSING THE SCENARIO AND I COULD GIVE HIM NO ASSURANCE OF WHAT THE SECRETARY'S REACTION MIGHT BE. I RECALLED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH
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TO HAVING AN EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL TABLED AND, BASING MY COMMENTS UPON MY TELECON WITH STERNER, I SAID INITIAL USG IMPRESSION OF COUNTERPROPOSAL IS THAT IT IS A POSITIVE NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT. IN DOING SO, I REEMPHASIZED THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN WE ACCEPT ALL OF THE POINTS, BUT FOR THE PURPOSES INDICATED IT IS A REASONABLE DOCUMENT. DECISION ON WHEN TO RELEASE IT TO ISRAELIS IS

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ONE FOR GOE TO TAKE AND I WAS SURE WASHINGTON WILL ALSO HAVE SOME VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT IN LIGHT MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. I SAID THAT IN ANY CASE WE WOULD LET GOE KNOW WHEN THE DOCUMENT IS PASSED.

3. KAMEL SAID HE WANTED TO THINK OVER A BIT MORE THE MATTER OF OPTIMUM TIMING FOR CONVEYING OF THE EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL TO THE ISRAELIS. HE ASKED THAT WE NOT DO SO UNTIL WE HAVE OBTAINED GOE APPROVAL, BUT SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ANY IDEAS WE MAY HAVE ON THE SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT: KAMEL IS VERY POSITIVE ON THE EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL. HE BELIEVES THAT IN ITS PRESENT FORM GOE CAN DEFEND IT IN ARAB WORLD AND NEED NOT BE "ASHAMED" OF IT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT GOE HAS NO MANDATE TO SPEAK FOR THE PALESTINIANS. EILTS

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